

**WE'RE
ON A
ROLL**



Recycling Cart FAQ

May 23, 2017

Visit www.westalliswi.gov/recycle for more information!

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Cart Background and Costs

What took the City so long to switch to carts?

The City was under a long-term contract requiring a dual stream recycling process. The Department of Public Works began to research single source recycling options with approval from the City's Common Council a few years ago. There is a lot of planning involved with something of this scale. We wanted to accomplish this transition cost effectively and smoothly for residents and the City. It took some time to align all of the details and identify the best solution. We're excited to move forward.

What is the cost of the carts to residents?

The initial recycling cart will be delivered free of charge to residents. If this cart is broken, lost, or stolen, residents will be responsible for purchasing a replacement cart.

Will taxes go up to fund the carts?

No. Taxes will not go up, and special fees will not be added to utility bills. The funds were already available in the City's utility fund to support the transition to carts, so no further monies will be required of residents.

How will this transition save labor and fuel costs since trucks will be on streets longer during every recycling day?

Additional staff are not being added to accommodate the change in recycling collection. We are able to collect recycling with the same number of staff we have been using. In addition, the City will receive revenue from material taken to the recycling facility.

What are the benefits to residents and City?

Because the new recycling carts make recycling so much easier, we expect more residents to participate in recycling. Increased participation = less material ending up in the landfill. As the City pays fees to deposit waste in landfills, less landfill material will mean cost savings as well. The carts are also more attractive than the blue bags, and will help deter rodents and boost curb appeal.

Cart Delivery and Transition from Blue Bags

Will all residences/businesses receive carts?

Only residential single family dwellings, duplexes, and 3-and-4 unit apartment complexes will receive carts.

When will the carts be delivered?

Carts will be delivered in late June 2017.

Where will the new cart be delivered?

New carts will be delivered in front of residents' homes. Even if your recycling is normally collected in the alley, you can expect to receive your new cart curbside.



What does the cart look like?

Your new recycling cart will be blue with a yellow lid. These 96 gallon carts are made of durable heavy plastic and are on wheels for easy movement.



What can we do with the extra blue bags that we have?

Use them up as garbage bags – they can be used for household garbage and set in your garbage container.

Recycling Guidelines: What's Changing, What's Not

Will recycling collection schedules change?

No.

What is single stream recycling?

Single stream recycling means that all recyclable items can go into one container – a single stream. It's easier and more efficient than the previous method of sorting and separating. Paper, aluminum, cardboard, glass, and plastics can all be placed in the recycling carts.

Where should we put the carts on our property on non-collection days?

Store your recycling cart in the same location as you store garbage container(s). Remember, it is against City ordinance to store these containers in front of your residence. Please refer to the [City website](#) for ordinances.

Where do carts go on collection day?

Place your new recycling carts at the same point of collection as in the past.

What items should be put into my recycling container?

The top of your new cart has the recycling guidelines molded into it to serve as a quick guide. Cardboard, unbroken glass, plastics #1-7, paper, and aluminum can all go into your new recycling cart. [View the full guidelines here.](#)

What happens to all the recycling I put into the container?

The material is taken to a Material Recovery Facility for processing.

Why should I recycle?

Recycling is required by Wisconsin State Law and West Allis ordinance. In addition, recycling reduces landfill waste and is good for the environment and economy.

Should I bag my recycling before placing it in the container?

No. Do not bag recyclables, and do not place plastic bags in the recycling containers. Plastic bags can clog recycling processing machinery and damage the equipment. This material is not recyclable.

When should I start using my new cart?

Use your new recycling cart as soon as you receive it!

Cart Concerns and Questions

I live alone and don't need a big cart. Do I have to get one?

Yes, all residential single family, duplex, and 3-and-4 unit households, will receive one per living unit, and are required to use them. Now that more items are recyclable than ever before, you will likely have more recycling at your residence. But depending on your household and the amount of recycling your family produces, you may only need to set your cart out for collection once per month.

Won't carts tip over on windy days?

With high winds anything is possible! One of residents' frustrations with the old blue bags and separated cardboard was that these items would blow around streets on windy days. Carts are typically bottom heavy so this should be less of a concern.

Are garbage carts mandatory too?

Garbage collection guidelines are not changing at this time. Per City Ordinance, all garbage must be contained in a City approved container such as a City cart purchased at City Hall, the Municipal Yards, or online, or garbage must be contained in a metal 32 gallon container with 2 handles and a tight fitting lid. Residents must have enough storage to contain refuse for up to 2 weeks in case the City is unable to collect on any given day or week due to emergency circumstances, i.e., inclement weather, natural disaster, etc.

If my cart is damaged or stolen, will the City replace it?

Residents will have to purchase a new cart in these instances.

